

all citizens, can experience the history of the founding of our great Nation.

#### IN MEMORY OF REUBEN WHEATLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Again, Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be speaking to my colleagues as you preside over this Chamber, and we thank you for your leadership.

I am privileged this evening to be able to stand on the floor of the House and salute a very dear friend, a friend who will commemorate and celebrate for his homegoing ceremony on this coming Friday, December 21, 2007. We will lay this battle-worn warrior, this friendly and wonderful public servant, Reuben Wheatley, to rest. I stand here as a longstanding friend, as a grateful member of his community, for all that he did to promote equality and justice and freedom.

Yes, Reuben Wheatley, born September 15, 1921 was, in fact, a member of the movement both in terms of creating opportunities for those of African American heritage and others and as well in fighting for the working men and women of America.

He was the proud son of Fifth Ward. Yes, that is in Houston, Texas, but everybody knows there is something called proudly Fifth Ward, Texas. Educated in the Houston Independent School District, and certainly whenever you would see Reuben, he would talk about his beloved Wheatley High School, Phyllis Wheatley High School, and he was an all-star member of the track team, the football team and the basketball team. And he was quick, regal, tall and quick. They called him "Rabbit." He joined the church at the Sloan Memorial United Methodist Church, a church still standing proudly in Fifth Ward.

But yet as this young man grew, he loved this Nation. And in 1941 he heeded the call of this Nation, the need of this Nation and went to war, World War II. He participated in the European Theater of Operations and was honorably discharged by the United States Army as master sergeant. He had the good sense, if you will, when he returned to marry Helen McCree his high school sweetheart, on November 18, 1945.

How grateful we are that he was one of the returning heroes, that as he battled in World War II, he lived to be able to enjoy the partnership, friendship and love of Helen McCree, now his wife, Helen Wheatley.

His father was a longshoreman, and in those days, the union and working for the union and working for the longshoremen, that was a job for African Americans that was a legacy, an opportunity, a step up. And so when he came back from the war, he joined in the footsteps of his father and became a

member of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local Number 872.

And boy, did he become a member, and did he not serve. Reuben Wheatley had his hands on the pulse of the community. He understood the importance and the necessity of empowerment of minorities. He was one of the champions of the election of the Honorable Barbara Jordan. Almost every elected person that could come out of Fifth Ward, Reuben Wheatley was there. He was there for Mickey Leland. And I am so grateful that he stretched his arms to be there for SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. As I ran for judge and city council, he saw in me something worth investing in.

Thank you, Reuben, and thank you to your wonderful family, your daughters, who you love so dearly, one in particular was named the name that I have, Sheila. And she, of course, along with her siblings were stars, and they were that because of Reuben and his wife Helen.

And so I am here today to thank you, Reuben, for now you fly where the angels fly. Thank you, Reuben, for being regal and tall. Thank you for smiling. Thank you for loving. Thank you for being that star at Wheatley so that your classmates can enjoy talking about your exploits on the football field, the basketball court, and the track, and yes, to remember that friendly name, "Rabbit."

Thank you for your faith and your commitment to your country. Thank you for your commitment, again, to family. Houston, Texas, the State of Texas and certainly our Nation is better because you yet lived. On Friday, it will be a celebration. Although tears will fall, we will be so grateful to continue to see you even as I speak, walking lightly in front of us.

Madam Speaker, it is certainly great to be able to say tonight, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." And that is what we say to Reuben Wheatley as he is laid to rest. We celebrate him and congratulate his life. God bless the family, and God bless him as he rests.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF REUBEN WHEATLEY

Whereas, on September 15, 1921, God blessed Emory McMillan, Sr and Creola Boyd Wheatley with the birth of their son, Reuben; and

Whereas, as a proud son of the Fifth Ward, Texas Wheatley clan, Reuben was educated in the Houston Independent School District. At his beloved Phyllis Wheatley High School, he excelled in football, basketball, and track and field earning the nickname "Rabbit"; and

Whereas, Reuben was presented to Christ by his parents at Sloan Memorial United Methodist Church. He later joined his bride at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church and subsequently, both as faithful servants of the Lord, joined Brentwood Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in 1941, Reuben honored the call to serve his country during World War II. He participated in the European Theater of Operations and was honorably discharged from the United States Army as Master Sergeant.

Upon his return from the service in 1945, Reuben married Helen McCree, his high school sweetheart, on November 18th; and

Whereas, in 1946, Reuben began his career along the shore working on the Houston docks where his father had worked since 1921. He was a member of International Longshoremen's Association, Local #872; and Whereas, he served his home local as Trustee, Recording Secretary and Business Agent before being elected President in 1971. In 1975, he became Executive Vice President of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District of the ILA; and

Whereas, he served as an active board member of Family Services of Greater Houston and an avid financial supporter of the United Negro College Fund; and

Whereas, Reuben was deeply committed to his community and his civic involvement reflected his concerns; and

Whereas, the memory of Reuben Wheatley will forever be in our hearts and minds as we go forth to celebrate his life today; and now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That on behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, Reuben Wheatley will be remembered for his devotion to his family, his community service, and his passion for music. His life will serve as an example to all of us to continue his legacy to serve others. His death is a great loss to us, but we know that his work on Earth is finished, and we believe the Master will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter. . . ."

#### A NEW DEBATE REGARDING LIBERTY, SOVEREIGNTY AND PROSPERITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I know that it is getting close to closing time, and I am in the unenviable position of being between so many good people and the door, so I will try to make sure that I give a truncated version of my simple desultory philippic to my constituents.

We in Congress are charged with the sacred duty of heeding and serving our constituents' aspirations and addressing their tribulations. We also have the responsibility of offering them a national vision and purpose and, most importantly, of putting them first in policymaking, which is why I have risen today to again lay before my constituents what I believe to be the four great generational challenges facing the United States of America.

Like the Greatest Generation, we face four challenges. The Greatest Generation, due to the rise of industrialization, faced social, economic and political turmoil. They faced a world war for freedom against an abjectly evil enemy. They faced the rise of the Soviet superstate as a rival model of governance and strategic threat, and they faced the moral question of whether the constitutional rights of all Americans applied equally regardless of race.

This generation of Americans in the age of globalization faces social, political and economic turmoil. We face a